

said pitches of different type, location and speed], said machine including at least one rotating wheel for propelling a ball toward a batter and dynamic braking means for rapidly decelerating the speed of said at least one rotating wheel.--

[Please amend claim 2 as follows:]

-- 2. (Amended) A ball-throwing machine of the type having a power head including at least two coating wheels for propelling a ball toward a batter to simulate a pitch, said machine including:

means for controlling the rotational speed of each wheel;

dynamic braking means for rapidly decelerating the speed of each wheel;

means for controlling the horizontal position of the power head; and

means for controlling the vertical position of the power head;

a) said machine being able to interchangeably deliver pitches of different types to different locations at different speeds with less than ten-second intervals between said pitches of different type, location and speed.--

[Amend claim 3 as follows:]

--3. (Amended) A ball-throwing machine of the type having a power head including at least three coating wheels for propelling a ball toward a batter to simulate a pitch, said machine having:

means for causing each of said wheels to rotate at a predetermined speed;

dynamic braking means for rapidly decelerating the speed of each wheel;

means for causing the power head to [move to] assume a predetermined horizontal position;

means for causing the power head to assume a predetermined vertical position; and

means for controlling the rotational speed of each wheel, the horizontal position of the power head and the vertical position of the power head; said machine being able to interchangeably deliver pitches of different types to different locations at different speeds with less than ten second intervals

a1 between said pitches.--

Cancel claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Cancel claims 17-19 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend claim 25 as follows:

-- ~~25~~²¹ (AMENDED) A sports training device, said device including:

means for displaying the image on a surface of a sports figure in motion; [and]

means for interchangeably propelling balls of different types through said surface in

a2 synchronization with said image to different locations at different speeds and different rotational velocities [with less than ten-second intervals between successive balls being propelled];

means for programming said ball-throwing machine to deliver a predetermined sequence of pitches of a predetermined profile, said means for programming comprising a smart card reader which is adapted to read a smart card on which is contained a predetermined sequence of pitches.--

Cancel claims 29 and 30 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Add the following new claims:

-- ~~25~~²⁵ (NEW) A ball-throwing machine including means to interchangeably deliver pitches of

29/2/00 different types to different locations at different speeds, said machine including ~~25~~^a power head having at least one rotating wheel for propelling a ball toward a batter, wherein said power head is pivotably mounted on a base at a center pivot about which the power head may be pivoted in both a horizontal and a vertical direction.--

a3 -- ~~26~~²⁶ (NEW) A ball-throwing machine of the type having a power head including at least two coating wheels for propelling a ball toward a batter to simulate a pitch, said power head being pivotably mounted on a base at a center pivot about which the power head may be pivoted in both a

horizontal and a vertical direction, said machine including:

means for controlling the horizontal position of the power head; and

means for controlling the vertical position of the power head.--

²⁷
-- ~~38~~ (NEW) A ball-throwing machine of the type having a power head including at least two
coacting wheels for propelling a ball toward a batter to simulate a pitch, said power head being
pivotably mounted on a base at a center pivot about which the power head may be pivoted in both a
horizontal and a vertical direction, said machine including:

means for causing the power head to rotate about said center pivot to assume a predetermined
horizontal position, said means for causing comprising at least one horizontal linear actuator; and

means for causing the power head to rotate about said center pivot to assume a predetermined
vertical position, said means for causing comprising at least one vertical linear actuator.--

²⁸
-- ~~38~~ (NEW) The ball-throwing machine of claim ²⁷ ~~38~~, further including means for
synchronizing the delivery of said pitches by said machine with a video image of a pitcher being
displayed on a video display.--

²⁹
-- ~~36~~ (NEW) A ball-throwing machine including means to interchangeably deliver pitches of
different types to different locations at different speeds, said machine including a programmable
controller having a microprocessor for controlling the operation of said machine and a smart card
reader adapted to read a pre-programmed smart card for re-programming said microprocessor.--

³⁰
-- ~~36~~ (NEW) The ball-throwing machine of claim ²⁹ ~~36~~, further including means for
synchronizing the delivery of said pitches by said machine with a video image of a pitcher being
displayed on a video display.--

³¹
-- ~~37~~ (NEW) A ball-throwing machine of the type having a power head including at least two
coacting wheels for propelling a ball toward a batter to simulate a pitch, said machine having:

a base including a center pivot on which said power head is mounted;
means for causing each of said wheels to rotate at a predetermined speed;
means for causing the power head to rotate about said center pivot to assume a predetermined horizontal position;

means for causing the power head to rotate about said center pivot to assume a predetermined vertical position; and

means for controlling the rotational speed of each wheel, the horizontal position of the power head and the vertical position of the power head; and

dynamic braking means for rapidly decelerating the speed of each wheel.--

³²
-- ~~38~~ (NEW) The ball-throwing machine of claim ~~38~~ ³¹ further including means for synchronizing the delivery of said pitches by said machine with a video image of a pitcher being displayed on a video display.--

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed April 11, 2000 has been carefully considered. Applicants note that the drawings in the case are informal and upon receipt of a Notice of Allowance, formal drawings will be submitted. As a result of this Amendment, claims 1-5, 7-16 and 20-38 remain in the case. Claims 6, 17-19 have been cancelled. Claims 31-38 have been added.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7, 10-13, 17 and 18 as being directly anticipated within the meaning of 35 USC § 102(b) over Floyd et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,442,823) as well as claims 16, 19 and 25-29 as being obvious within the meaning of 35 USC § 103(a) over Floyd et al. in view of Kapp et al. (5,195,744). The Examiner has indicated that claims 6, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 30 would be allowable if re-written in independent form and allowed claims 20-24.

The Examiner will appreciate that the claims have now been amended to incorporate therein the

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